Done

The New and Strange Imprisonment

Of the People called

QUAKERS

In the CITY of

BRISTOL.

Society of Friends

By Nailing them up in their Meeting-Houſe the 7th. of the third Month called *May*, 1682.

And the Reſult of the Tryal, upon the pretence of a Riot againſt them. Signified by Perſons of Credit, and immediate Sufferers in the ſaid City. To be added to their late ~~Diſtreſſed Caſe~~.

They ſhall be Aſhamed of their Envy againſt my People, Iſa. 26. 11.

Briſtol Newgate *Priſon*, *the 8th of the 3d Month* May, 1682.

Dear Friend,

AS to our Meeting Yeſterday, the Sheriff, *&c.* came about Ten in the Morning: Proclamation was made. The Meeting not departing immediately thereupon, he cauſed the Doors to be Nailed up upon them, (having firſt ſent ſeven Men Friends hither) and ſo kept Eighty ſeven Women

men and fourteen till three in the Afternoon, (which was five Hours in that Confinement in their Meeting Room) allowing no way out for any Neceſſity: Which was not only Arbitrary, but an Inhumane Act.

In the Afternoon, the Meeting was at the Door of the other Meeting-houſe; whereto came *Tilly*, &c. This Meeting began, as uſual, about Twelve. Friends not departing on Command, were haſtened in, there alſo; and kept in the Rain (it being an open Court) till between four and five in the Afternoon. And then many, or moſt of them, were had to the *Tolzey*, before the Deputy Mayor *John Hix*. Who after a while was pleaſed to let them all go home, to appear to day, which many of them did. The Proſecutors aime to make a Riot of this Afternoon Meeting: Becauſe when the Door was opened, our Friends preſſed to go out, to go to their Homes. The Juſtices to day could not accord about it: So they were diſmiſt till to Morrow Morning. A more punctual Account, I hope ſome Friends will ſend up. The ſeven men were ſent for from hence alſo, and Diſcharged. Doubtleſs its not the Kings mind, that under colour of Execution of the Law, we ſhould be abuſed contrary thereunto. We are now Nineteen Priſoners here.

Thy Affectionate Loving Friend.

Briſtol *the* 10*th of the* 3*d. Month* May 1682.

LAſt Poſt a ſhort Account was given of the Diſturbance of our two Meetings the laſt Firſt day, the Iſſue of which was not determined till Yeſterday, when a Jury was Impannelled in order to Enquire after a Riot. *Patrick* the Abuſive Conſtable and Informer, Swore at a great rate, and ſo did another, (whoſe Name I have not yet an Account of.) The ſubſtance was, that about Thirty of the Women came and forcibly opened the Door, and laying Hands on him, they Reſcued themſelves from the place they were Confined to.

The Juſtices were not very Credulous of the Informers, knowing the Improbability of our Women Friends laying Violent

lent Hands on the Officers; ſo gave the Women Liberty to make their own Defence, which was performed in good Language, and very Succinct. They told the Juſtices, how they were there Peaceably met. And how the Officers and Informers Guarded the Door, and Impriſoned them; by reaſon they did not immediately depart, after their Proclamation. That after this Confinement, they took liberty to call out ſix or eight, (one while) and diſmiſs them. Then to call again, and do the ſame to another, ſuch like.

Further, the one Informer commanded ſeveral of them to *Bridewell*: And yet *Helliar* called them back, after they were far on their way; and remanded them to the Confinement at ther Meeting place. That when the uſual time was come for their Departure. They roſe in a Body, and were going Peaceably away. That ſome of them were got almoſt as far as the Street, without any moleſtation. And that then, they were all brought back again to the Confinement of the Meeting place, and there kept in the Rain. The Informers, without regard to their Sex; Age or Quality, (ſome of which were conſiderable, as *Martha* the late Widow of Sheriff *Bates*, ther Siſter *Sarah Can*, *Mary Gouldney*, *Mary Walk*, &c.) taking up the places of ſhelter, to Drink Ale, and Smoak Tobacco in. In ſhort, the defence the Women made, had ſo effect, that firſt the Juſtices were divided, and ſome argued for them, Old Sir *John Knight* in particular. (For which he was Abuſed on the Bench, and had Reflection caſt on him, by *Brand* the Sheriffs Companion.) And next, the Jury would not believe the Informers; ſo brought in their Verdict *No Riot*, but guilty of an Unlawful Aſſembly. This Verdict ſo diſpleaſed the Sheriff, that he Menaced the Jury with having them up to *London*: Saying, *If he could not have Juſtice here, he would have it there.* The Jury's Verdict is grateful to the moſt Diſcreet, Subſtantial Magiſtrates and the Sober Citizens; though the Informers Huff at it, taking all amiſs, that doth not quadrate with their wicked deſigns.

The Inhumanity and Baſeneſs of *John Helliar*, Sheriff *Knight*, &c. Is much cryed out againſt, in that they brought Nails and Hammer to Nail up the Morning Meeting-houſe, and there kept the Women and Men together, well nigh ſix Hours, without any Conveniency of Eaſe or Refreſhment to

Nature

Nature. And this *Higgar* was so sensible of, that he told them, next time they should Chamber-Potts. Its too large to insist on all their Sordid Abuses. So I refer to another time. Yesterday the Meeting again Disturbed: And on the occasion of an Ancient man speaking two or three words, their Names taken, and the Meeting made a Conventicle; which is what they greedily aim at.

Bristol *the* 13*th of the* 3*d. Month* 1682.

YEsterday, by that time about 30 Friends were met, in their Meeting-House-Yard; the Sheriff, *&c.* came, who strictly examined Friends, as he useth to do, what they do there, commanding the Kings Peace to be kept. A Serious Woman Friend told him, *We do keep the Kings Peace, and we came here to keep our Peace with the King of Kings.* The Sheriff was pleased to send her and three Women more to *Newgate*: Whence after about six Hours they were let go home to appear to day; which they attended to do, but were not called for, (so that is over.) So small occasion the Sheriff can take to send Friends to Prison. Several Justices care not to be forward in this work.

Thy Affectionate Loving Friend.